

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 14-~~142~~ authorizing a ballot measure to change the form of government to a council-mayor form, with seven-member council, and approve ballot language to be included on the ballot in the November 2014 General Election [Councilmember Haaga]

BACKGROUND:

West Jordan City Council in 2013, voted to create a position of the Mayor as full time with salary and benefits. West Jordan City currently has the Council-Manager form of government, consisting of a 7-member council which includes the Mayor as a voting member.

With the growth of West Jordan having an active Mayor engages with businesses and resident with the authority to act as the Chief Executive Officer of the City. Residents want our government to be responsive but at the same time have the checks of a strong City Council with authority to keep in check the executive branch the Mayor balanced.

Compared to all but one City in Utah, all large cities similar to West Jordan have the Council-Mayor form of government with either five or seven council.

If approved this resolution would only bring to vote the question to the resident and would not take effect until January 2016, after the Municipal elections. This action put into effect the action taken by the City Council in 2013, with their desire to create a Full Time Mayor. However, this is the proper way allowing as prescribed in Utah State Code to place a ballot measure on the General Election and allow the voters of the City to approve the change.

THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN, UTAH

A Municipal Corporation

RESOLUTION NO. 14-142

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BALLOT MEASURE TO CHANGE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO A COUNCIL-MAYOR FORM, WITH SEVEN-MEMBER COUNCIL, AND APPROVE BALLOT LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE BALLOT IN THE NOVEMBER 2014 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, Whereas the Utah State Code authorizes municipalities to establish cities of West Jordan's population the Council-Mayor form, as two separate, independent, and equal branches of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, Utah State Code only authorizes the change in the form of government unless voters of the municipality approve the change at an election held for that purpose (10-3b-502); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and current term of council members as of the date of this Resolution, will remain in office when change takes effect January 2016 (10-3b-506); and

WHEREAS, 2015 is a municipal election year for council districts, with the new council position created will be an At-Large member, and elected on the same cycle of district elections; and

WHEREAS the Mayor will have Executive Authority, will appoint a Chief Administrative Officer with the Council's advice and consent to exercise the administrative powers prescribed by the Mayor and Council (10-3b-503 (5)); and

WHEREAS, Utah State Code requires two public hearings before the question can be placed on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, Utah State Code only allows a simply question. 10-3b-505,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST JORDAN, UTAH, THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Council approves submitting for voter approval a measure to appear on the 2014 November General Election ballot for an official change of Government to Council-Mayor form, with a seven-member council; consisting of the Mayor as the Executive Branch, and Legislative Branch consisting of Three At-Large members and Four District members of equal population.

Section 2. This Resolution approves the following ballot language, which will be submitted to the Salt Lake County Election Clerk and which will be included on the ballot for voter approval in the November, 2014 General Election:

"Shall the City of West Jordan, Utah change its form of government to the Council-Mayor form, with a seven-member council?"

Yes ☐
No ☐

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Adopted by the City Council of West Jordan, Utah, this 30 day of July 2014.

KIM V. ROLFE
Mayor

ATTEST:

MELANIE S. BRIGGS, MMC
City Clerk

Voting by the City Council	"AYE"	"NAY"
Council Member Jeff Haaga	_____	_____
Council Member Judy Hansen	_____	_____
Council Member Chris McConnehey	_____	_____
Council Member Chad Nichols	_____	_____
Council Member Ben Southworth	_____	_____
Council Member Justin D. Stoker	_____	_____
Mayor Kim V. Rolfe	_____	_____